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PORTO RICO.**Plague Situation.**

From July 2 to 11 cases of plague have been reported in Porto Rico as follows: July 3, 1 case at San Juan; July 4, 1 case at Santurce; July 8, 1 case at San Juan and 1 case at Santurce; July 10, 1 case at San Juan.

The totals of reported cases and deaths to July 11 are as follows: San Juan, 24 cases, 16 deaths; Santurce, 7 cases, 3 deaths; Carolina, 2 cases, 2 deaths; Arroyo, 1 case, 1 death, making in all 34 cases of plague with 22 deaths in Porto Rico from the time of the occurrence of the first diagnosed case, June 14. Infected rats have been found in San Juan, Santurce, and Carolina.

As referred to in last week's issue of the Public Health Reports, pages 1089 and 1090, the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service is carrying on the work of plague eradication in cooperation with the Porto Rican department of sanitation, and Passed Asst. Surg. R. H. Creel has been put in charge. A division of the work has been made as follows:

WORK TO BE PERFORMED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION OF PORTO RICO.

1. Collection and disposal of garbage.
2. Maintenance of isolation and refugee camps.
3. Maintenance of isolation hospital.
4. Inspection of dead and cases of suspicious sickness.
5. Autopsy of bodies in cases of suspicious deaths, this to be done together with the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service representatives.
6. Condemnation and destruction of infested houses when necessary.
7. Disinfection of houses.
8. Enforcement of rat-proofing regulations when legal proceedings are necessary.
9. The provision of necessary office and laboratory buildings.
10. The provision of necessary transportation facilities.

WORK TO BE PERFORMED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE.

1. To supply officers to take special charge of the plague work.
2. The catching and poisoning of rats and general supervision of rat-proofing of premises and buildings; also laboratory examination of rodents.
3. The payment of the salaries of the field force, laboratory force, and office force.
4. The supervision of the source, storage, and shipping of outgoing freight.

QUARANTINE PROTECTION TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

Passed Asst. Surg. Grubbs, chief quarantine officer of Porto Rico, reported, June 28, that a request had been received from the quarantine officer at Habana asking that outgoing quarantine precautions be enforced on all vessels destined for Cuba, and that, in compliance with this request and for the protection of others, outgoing quarantine precautions were being carried out on vessels destined for Cuba and also for other foreign ports.

TRINIDAD, WEST INDIES.**Plague Summary.**

Consul Hale reports June 20 as follows regarding the occurrence of plague in Trinidad:

In 1910 there were nine cases of plague reported in Trinidad, the first case being February 18, and the last one July 12. Seven of these occurred during the months of April and May at Tacarigua, 10 miles from Port of Spain. This was an outbreak among coolie

laborers on a sugar estate, and was quickly under the control of the health authorities.

In 1911 there were seven cases reported between February 10 and May 9. Most of these occurred in March and April and all were in Port of Spain.

This year, 1912, the first case was reported April 1, followed by five other cases in April, one being in Tunapuna, 8 miles from Port of Spain. The next case was reported June 12, having been isolated June 8, since which time there have been four other cases, the last one being isolated on June 10; two of these cases were at Tunapuna.

There are no suspected cases at this writing.

One peculiarity of these sporadic cases is, especially here in Port of Spain, that seldom is there more than one or possibly two cases in the same locality. They are usually in different sections of the city and seemingly not at all related as to cause.

Although the people generally express no special alarm as these cases are reported, still the health department immediately and with energy attack the situation and thus far have easily mastered it, preventing the spread of the disease.

As soon as a case of illness is accompanied by conditions which create a suspicion in the mind of the attending physician, the patient is at once taken to the isolation ward of the Colonial Hospital, and, although only under suspicion, is most carefully treated. As soon as possible a bacteriological investigation is made, the results of which are reported to the Surgeon General of Trinidad and on this basis the official report is made. General notification is given to the Government and all consuls. This bacteriological examination is sometimes completed before the death of the patient, but, in some cases where death occurs, results are not determined until after death. In some cases the conditions are such that a number of days pass before the diagnosis can be confirmed.

At the time of placing the patient in the hospital, careful attention is given to the room, and building previously occupied by the patient, and surrounding district, the police being in charge so far as necessary. Note is also made of all possible contacts, who are kept under careful surveillance. The premises are thoroughly disinfected, and every precaution used to prevent any spread of the disease. The clothing worn and other personal belongings of the patient which might by any possibility be the cause of spreading the disease are burned, and authority is given, by ordinance, to destroy buildings if the Government deems such steps necessary to master all conditions of danger.

The surgeon general of Trinidad is constantly in close touch with all the changing conditions and developments of each case, and directs the action of his subordinates.

In case the outbreak occurs in the country districts the patient is immediately isolated and taken charge of by the Government medical officer, who at once notifies the surgeon general, and the bacteriologist of the health department immediately proceeds to the place to advise with the local doctor in charge of the case and make his investigation. This work is done as speedily as possible, considering the necessity for thoroughness.

Touching disinfection of premises and destruction of property, the same course is pursued as in the city. Every means at the command of the health department is called into action to master the situation.

Compensation is made by the Government for any property thus destroyed.

Rat gangs are engaged all the time in the destruction of these allies of plague. This work has been energetically prosecuted for some time, and has resulted in the destruction of hundreds every week; and notwithstanding they multiply so rapidly, still it is encouraging to know that in the principal provision and rat-food districts and about the wharves there is a noticeable diminution in the number of rats, and much less destruction of meal, corn, etc.

As soon as a suspected case of plague is reported a rat gang at once operates with thoroughness all through that immediate district. Among all the thousands of rats and mice which have been caught and examined since January 1 only two have been found to be infected—one in the city proper and one in one of the suburbs. The latest report shows that during the week ending June 7, 190 rats were caught and destroyed, and 278 during the week ending June 14—468 for the two weeks and none was found infected. During the same period 881 mice were destroyed.

Under the instructions of the department this office reports to Washington all officially notified cases, but in the issuance of bills of health every suspected case is noted with dates, although it may not have been reported officially by the Surgeon General as the result of bacteriological investigation.

At the harbor master's office and other consulates clean bills of health are given in 10 days after isolation, while in this consulate 14 days must elapse before clean bills are issued. At present there is a hope that there may be no more cases of plague this year, as the usual season for the appearance of these sporadic cases is now passed.

Consul Hale further reported July 2 the occurrence of one case of plague in Trinidad.

CHOLERA, YELLOW FEVER, PLAGUE, AND SMALLPOX.

Reports Received During Week Ended July 12, 1912.

[These tables include cases and deaths recorded in reports received by the Surgeon General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, from American consuls through the Department of State and from other sources.]

CHOLERA.

Places.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
China:				
Amoy.....	June 1.....	.....	.....	Present in vicinity. Sporadic cases occurring in the port.
Swatow.....	do.....	.....	.....
India:				
Bombay.....	May 27-June 1....	27	23	
Madras.....	do.....	2	1	
Indo-China:				
Saigon.....	May 14-28.....	92	68	
Siam:				
Bangkok.....	Apr. 21-May 18....	.....	660	
Straits Settlements:				
Singapore.....	May 12-18.....	3	3	

YELLOW FEVER.

Brazil:				
Manaos.....	June 2-15.....	.....	6	
Pernambuco.....	Apr. 16-30.....	.....	3	
Mexico:				
San Juan Bautista.....	July 7.....	2	.....
Venezuela:				
Caracas.....	May 1-31.....	.....	4	